

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES IN MID-SEPTEMBER, 1990

In this fourth report of 1990, forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes in mid-September 1990, are briefly discussed.

VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR (*Lochmaeus manteo*), part of a complex of hardwood defoliators, has never been solely responsible as a significant defoliator in the Maritimes in 54 years of survey reports. This year, moderate and severe defoliation of beech was found, with very little defoliation by its often associated complex, at a number of locations in southern York County, New Brunswick and two locations in Queens and Yarmouth counties, Nova Scotia. The most severe damage was at Spednic Lake Provincial Park, York County, New Brunswick, which suffered complete defoliation of approximately 75 hectares of beech.

GYPSY MOTH - Approximately 5500 pheromone traps should soon be collected. As of this date, however, we have very few returns which might indicate catch trends. Egg mass surveys will be conducted by the various cooperating agencies throughout the fall. Please be reminded that prompt return of traps or information on results to FIDS in Fredericton will go a long way towards quickly informing all of our cooperators of the "big picture".

 NURSERIES ☐

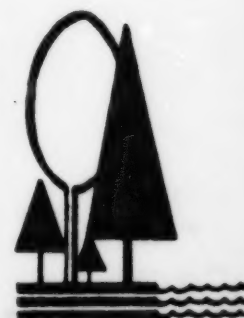
 PLANTATIONS ☐

 SILVICULTURE ☐

 UTILIZATION ☐

 ECONOMICS ☐

 TREE
IMPROVEMENT ☐

 INSECTS
AND
DISEASES ☒


HEMLOCK LOOPER - An aerial survey completed by the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy and Forestry Canada has determined that approximately 3400 hectares of balsam fir in the Christmas Mountain area, Northumberland County, New Brunswick, has been severely defoliated by hemlock looper or by a combination of hemlock looper and spruce budworm. Although no noticeable defoliation has been found elsewhere in the region, tree beatings collected throughout the summer suggest that further monitoring at a few locations in Charlotte County, New Brunswick, is desirable.

EARLY BROWNING OF WHITE BIRCH has occurred again along the Bay of Fundy coast and adjacent inland areas in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Browning was more variable this year than what was observed in 1989, ranging from trees showing no symptoms to patches of a few trees having moderate damage. Generally, the discoloration was of light intensity in late August. In early September, however, leaf discoloration intensified rapidly, in a few areas, with considerable premature leaf drop well ahead of autumn leaf coloration. Leaf discoloration of variable intensity, similar to that found along the Bay of Fundy, occurred in several areas of north-central New Brunswick and eastern Nova Scotia.

YELLOWHEADED SPRUCE SAWFLY severely defoliated approximately 15 hectares total of young black spruce near Hammondvale, Kings County, New Brunswick. Defoliation was patchy, affecting in some areas only a few trees, or parts thereof, and in one location, an area as large as 3 hectares.

LARCH SAWFLY was found at locations in Lunenburg, Hants, and Queens counties, Nova Scotia. Damage to trees varied greatly, but cases of severe defoliation were patchy and often involving only one or two trees.

FALL WEBWORM nests were common on hardwoods, "not hard to find", with populations higher than in 1989, in southern New Brunswick and throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Other forest insects and diseases that were conspicuous during the latter part of the season included **GREENSTRIPED MAPLEWORM** in central Nova Scotia; **WILLOW FLEA WEEVIL** in central and southern New Brunswick and throughout Nova Scotia; **LEAF BLOTCH OF HORSE CHESTNUT**, common in eastern Nova Scotia; **APPLE AND THORN SKELETONIZER** in eastern Prince Edward Island; **SPRUCE NEEDLE RUST** causing severe damage to blue spruce ornamentals in Newcastle, Northumberland County, New Brunswick.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey